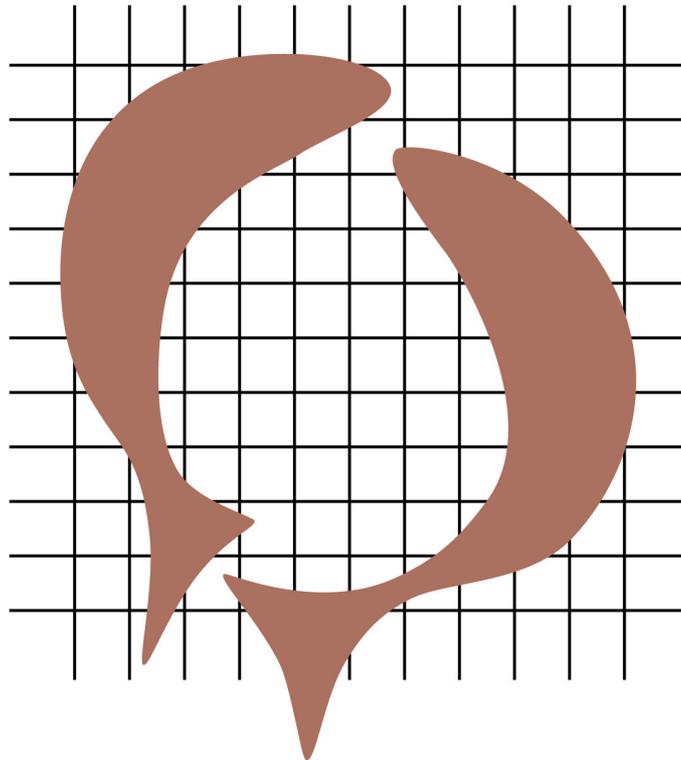


NVG NEWSLETTER
22th year no. 1, June 2013

Nederlandse Vereniging voor
Gedragsbiologie

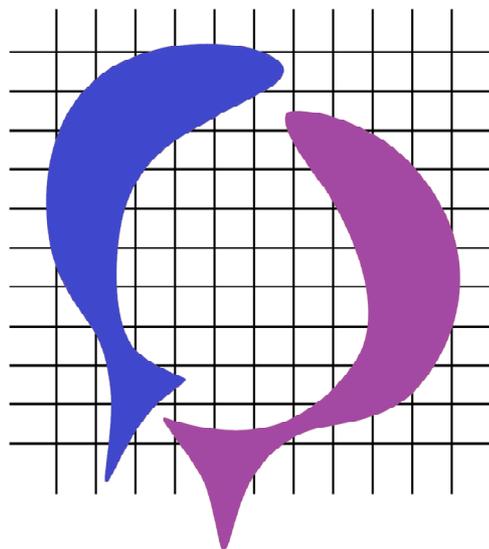
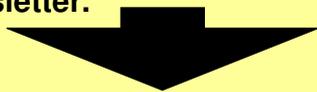


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NETHERLANDS SOCIETY FOR BEHAVIOURAL BIOLOGY

The Netherlands Society for Behavioural Biology aims at strengthening behavioural biology in the Netherlands and the direct surroundings. We strive for top quality in all of the behavioural sciences with respect to teaching, research, and public debate. The society organizes a yearly meeting and distributes this biannual newsletter.



Council members:

Prof. Dr. Simon Verhulst (Chair)
Dr. Ir. Bas Rodenburg (Secretary)
Prof. Dr. Marcel Eens (Belgium)
Dr. Kees van Oers (PhD workshop)
Dr. Liesbeth Bolhuis (Treasurer)
Dr. Martine Maan (NVG-meeting)
Dr. Hans Slabbekoorn (Newsletter)

More information available at:

<http://www.gedragbiologie.nl>

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Membership fee: € 25,- per year for (PhD-)students and biologists in-between-jobs. Others: € 30,-.

Contributions newsletter:

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Editorial Preface

We have confirmations from four excellent international speakers for this years' NVG-meeting in Soesterberg. Two are women, two are men. I hope they will indeed come, that there will be great contributions from women and men from within our community, and that we continue to realize that gender does not matter when it comes to the quality of science, but that also in our field it requires continued efforts from both men and women to get a more balanced representation of the sexes at meetings. **The editor: Hans Slabbekoorn**

the 15th of August, via email, to: Mrs. S. Wijfjes-Chang:
Sylvius@biology.leidenuniv.nl

WEB ALERT



~ website suggestions by a colleague with information relevant to our community.



Low visibility of female scientists at evolution conferences

By Hannah Dugdale

Researchers from the University of Groningen, and colleagues have shown that women are underrepresented as invited speakers at evolutionary biology symposia.



The study, published in the *Journal of Evolutionary Biology*, was lead by Dr Julia Schroeder (on the right) at the Max Planck Institute for

Ornithology in Germany, and Dr Hannah Dugdale (on the left) at the University of Sheffield in the UK, and the University of Groningen.

They found that over six congresses of the European Society for Evolutionary Biology, only 16% of invited symposia speakers were women.



At first glance, this is not surprising given that there are fewer women in senior academic positions. However, even after accounting for this, there were fewer women than expected (compared to sex ratios of faculty at the World top-10 Universities for Life Sciences, and first authors in top-tier journals).

So, why are there fewer female invited speakers?

At ESEB 2011, this was because 50% of invited women declined to speak compared to 26% of invited men. Julia and Hannah are currently investigating whether this finding occurs more widely. If so, understanding the reasons behind why more women than men declined talks is vital, so that this underrepresentation can be addressed.

But why is this important?

This work shows that high-quality scientific research by women is less visible than that of men. This means that aspiring scientists are exposed to fewer female role models, in an already male biased field. Overall, this could constrain the field of evolutionary biology from reaching its full potential. It is therefore important that scientists and

students are aware of this phenomenon and that measures based on sound data can be implemented to address this bias.

RELATED WEBSITES:

<http://news.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2013/06/study-finds-women-biologists-mor.html>

<http://www.the-scientist.com/?articles.view/articleNo/18708/title/Women-Scientists-Stress-Need-For-Visibility-At-Conferences/>



**FINANCIAL SUPPORT
OPPORTUNITY FOR
MEETINGS AND SYMPOSIA IN
BEHAVIOURAL BIOLOGY**

AIM: The NVG wants to support small events with financial contributions if they yield a significant spread of interest, increase the understanding, or stimulate research ideas and collaborations in Behavioural Biology in the Netherlands or Flanders.

Guidelines follow below for applying and receiving financial support from the NVG for Behavioural Biology events (as approved by the board on the 29th of June, 2012).

Budget & Decision Process:

- 1) A total of maximally €750 is available per budget year (Adjustments can only be determined at the annual meeting);
- 2) The possibility of support is advertised at the annual meeting and in the newsletter;
- 3) A board majority is required to award a support request;
- 4) Board members involved in a request are excluded from the decision making process;
- 5) Support decisions are communicated through a letter from the treasurer.

Eligibility & Applications:

- 1) Only NVG-members can apply;
- 2) Support requests need to be submitted at least six weeks before the event;
- 3) The application involves a brief explanation of how the event matches our aim;
- 4) The application should include a budget with costs, benefits and other co-sponsors.

Obligations & Reimbursement:

- 1) The applicant is obliged to inform NVG-members at least two weeks in advance about the NVG-supported event;
- 2) The applicant is obliged to write a brief report for the next newsletter about the event;
- 3) Payment takes place after the event, based on actual receipts, and after having received a newsletter report;
- 4) All documents will be provided to the audit committee for the annual financial report.